

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:SEPT. 6 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. CHRISTOPHER S. WREN OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW, QUOTED GROMYKO AS SAYING THAT NEW AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS WITH U.S. WAS "QUITE ATTAINABLE." GROMYKO SAID THIS COULD BE REALIZED ONLY IF PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY WERE OBSERVED BY BOTH SIDES. WREN SAID GROMYKO'S REMARKS, WHILE SOUNDING OPTIMISTIC, DID NOT REALLY SIGNAL ANY SHIFT IN SOVIET POSITION TOWARD RESOLVING DEADLOCK OVER NEW ARMS AGREEMENT. MOSCOW HAS CHARGED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION TRIED LAST WINTER TO ALTER 1974 VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD IN ORDER TO GAIN STRATEGIC EDGE. HIS CONTENTION WAS RENEWED BY PRAVDA, WHICH CHARGED THAT WASHINGTON WAS DELAYING CONCLUSION OF NEW TREATY BY SEEKING TO ACHIEVE "UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES" WHERE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY OF TWO SIDES SHOULD BE APPLIED. PRAVDA SAID U.S. WAS ATTEMPTING TO "STIR UP NEW ROUND OF ARMS RACE.,  
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2. HENRY BRADSHER OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN REACH AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION ON EXTENDING 1972 SALT PACT BEYOND ITS OCT. 3 EXPIRATION, BUT PROSPECTS FOR WRITING MORE COMPREHENSIVE SALT TWO TREATY "REMAIN VERY CLOUDY." BRADSHER SAID SOME

OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS WILL PRODUCE ANY SALT RESULTS BEYOND EXTENSION. BRADSHER REPORTED THAT ONE OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS SAYS U.S. HAS EMPHASIZED TO SOVIET UNION THAT IT MUST COME UP WITH POSITIVE PROPOSALS FOR BREAKING DEADLOCK ON CORE ISSUES, RATHER THAN JUST WAITING FOR NEW U.S. PROPOSALS AND TRYING TO PICK ACCEPTABLE PARTS OUT OF THEM. BUT, OFFICIAL TOLD BRADSHER, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS. BRADSHER SAID ,CONTINUED TOUGH SOVIET ATTITUDE OF EXPECTING AMERICAN CONCESSIONS WAS VOICED IN MOSCOW YESTERDAY (SEPT. 2). WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW ZA RUBEZHOM SAID NEXT ROUND OF TALKS 'WILL SHOW WHETHER IN FACT AMER;CAN SIDE IS WILLING TO ELIMINATE OBSTACLES IT HAS ERECTED AND TRY TO TRANSLATE ITS POSITIVE STATEMENTS INTO PRACTICAL DEEDS.'

STAR CORRESPONDENT SAID MEETING CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT CARTER NOW SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK TO MAKE SOME CRITICAL DECISIONS ON U.S. POSITION FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.,

3. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT GRAHAM HOVEY REPORTED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS RELYING ON UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH SOVIET UNION, RATHER THAN FORMAL AGREEMENT, TO CONTINUE EXISTING LIMITS ON DEPLOYMENT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS AFTER SALT ONE EXPIRES OCT. 3. HOVEY SAID MORE FORMAL AGREEMENT TO KEEP SALT ONE IN FORCE WOULD REQUIRE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. HE QUOTED SENIOR OFFICIAL AS SAYING ,WE WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO CONSULT CONGRESS AND TO GET THEIR ADVICE. WE WILL WANT TO WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH CONGRESS THAT WILL BE SATISFACTORY." DAN OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION MAY MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OCT. 3 OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ABIDE BY CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS AFTER EXPIRATION. OFFICIAL, OBERDORFER ADDED, DID NOT EXPLICITLY SAY THAT RUSSIANS HAVE AGREED TO THIS.

4. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID IT IS HARD TO SAY WHETHER THERE WILL BE SA-T TWO LET ALONE SALT THREE. -CERTAINLY, ISSUE NO LONGER HAS DRAMATIC APPEAL OF SALT ONE. EXPERIENCE HAS NOT BORNE OUT EARLY HOPES THAT SOMEHOW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WOULD CAUSE SLOWDOWN IN NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. WHAT DOES SEEM INESCAPABLE IS THAT LEFT TO ITS OWN MOMENTUM, TALKS WOULD DRAG ON INTERMINABLY. MAJOR DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED ON BOTH SIDES TO BREAK DEADLOCK. WHICH RAISES QUESTION OF WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER, PREPARING FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKELY TO BE MAJOR BATTLE IN CONGRESS NEXT YEAR FOR RATIFICATION OF NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY,

FEELS HE CAN RUN ADDITIONAL RISK OF ALIENATING CONSERVATIVES BY 'GIVING IN' TO RUSSIANS ON SUCH MATTERS AS CRUISE MISSILE."

5. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID PENTAGON OFFICIALS ARE SAYING: LET'S KEEP OUR OPTIONS AS OPEN AS WE CAN WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH WEAPONS AS CRUISE AND AIR FORCE'S PROPOSED BLOCKBUSTER MISSILE, MX. WE SHOULD BE IN NO HURRY TO OBTAIN SALT AGREEMENT, THEY SAY, BECAUSE RUSSIANS NEED IT MORE THAN WE DO AND MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT IT MORE. THERE IS NOTHING SOVIETS CAN DO IN NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY THAT U.S. CANNOT MATCH, THEY ARGUE. AND BY CONTINUING TO PUSH AHEAD WITH NEW WEAPONS, WE ARE CREATING "BARGAINING CHIPS" WHICH CAN BE USED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIANS. SOUTHERLAND  
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LAND SAID "MOST ARTICULATE ADVOCATE OF OPPOSING VIEWS IS ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE. SECRETARY VANCE AND LESLIE GELB (PM DIRECTOR) "ARE THOUGHT TO BE LARGELY IN SYMMATHY WITH MR. WARNKE'S VIEWS SOUTHERLAND SAID WARNKE TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT PROCESS OF "RECIPROCAL RESTRAINT" IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS MIGHT WORK WITH SOVIETS, WHILE "BARGAINING CHIP, APPROACH MIGHT PROVE TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS. HE SAID WARNKE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO ARGUMENT OVER DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES, BUT WARNKE BELIEVES THAT THEIR UNRESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT, IN ABSENCE OF NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT, MIGHT GRAVELY ENDANGER PROSPECTS FOR SUCH AGREEMENT BECAUSE (1) CRUISE MISSILES MAKE VERIFICATION OF ARMS CONTROL VIOLATIONS MORE DIFFICULT AND (2) SOVIETS WOULD EVENTUALLY BEGIN TO OVERCOME LEAD WHICH U.S. HAS IN CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY, JUST AS THEY ONCE OVERCAME AMERICAN LEAD IN DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE WARHEADS FOR SINGLE MISSILE.

6. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED SEPT. 3 REUTER DISPATCH REPORTING THAT ACDA, WHICH IS REQUIRED UNDER U.S. LAW TO EVALUATE IMPACT OF ANY WEAPONS SALE ON WORLDWIDE ARMS CONTROL, OPPOSES PROPOSAL 1.5 BILLION DOLLAR SALE OF 60 ADVANCED F-15 FIGHTER PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA. REUTER SAID AGENCY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT ACDA HAD RECOMMENDED AGAINST SALE, BUT OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR AGENCY DECLINED TO COMMENT. REUTER SAID ACDA RECOMMENDATION HELPS THOSE IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHO OPPOSE SELLING F-15 AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA, AND GIVES AMMUNITION TO PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY IN ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO DISAPPROVE SALE. REUTER SAID ISRAELI BACKERS FEAR THAT IN CONFLICT, SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT SEND ITS F-15S TO OTHER ARAB NATIONS FIGHTING ISRAEL, WHICH ALREADY HAS BOUGHT 25 F-15S. VANCE  
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